

I wish to add to my earlier comment by suggesting that again the FCC should support the merger between Echostar and Direct-TV which will result in better services and LOCAL SERVICE for most of America. Without the merger, much of America will not be able to receive their locals via satellite and the SHVA as it stands eliminates any other possible alternatives, as the waiver process as it stands is a joke with nearly all local broadcasters denying waivers when requested. thus forcing you to buy local cable service or put up an antenna (if you can) to get a local signal. The merger will give Echostar the bandwidth to put up locals for most of the USA and finally give cable a run for its money by putting satellite tv on a level playing field. If you still have concerns, then I propose that you allow Echostar to acquire Direct-TV's satellites at the 110 and 119 spots if it gives up its satellites in the other positions by selling them off to another company in existence or to a new up-start company. That would still allow Echostar to put locals up almost everywhere. If there are still concerns about the merger that you can't get past, then lets re-examine the SHVA to allow satellite viewers to receive locals from the NEAREST AVAILABLE DMA rather than only their local DMA if offered or just allow us to receive distant signals, period and then we will also have some sort of competition to cable. I would also like to state that as a Dish Network customer of 3+ years, I have no complaints about customer service issues. I have always felt like I have been treated well, much better than cable treated me. Dish has made me feel like they care about me and I expect that to continue if the merger is approved and I have no concerns about Dish raising rates, etc as after all, if things get too out of hand, I still have a choice of going back to cable so there really is no monopoly...I do have a choice. Please support this merger for the betterment of those of us who likewise won't get our locals.